

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises:
2 a plurality of identification cards that contain a code that uniquely identify
3 mailers;
4 a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique identifying
5 number contained in the card after the mail entered the interior of the receptacle; and
6 a data center that stores the unique code and receives the unique code
7 from the receptacles to determine if the mailer is permitted to enter mail in the
8 receptacle.

2 2. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle units include a
2 scanner that reads the card.

1 3. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein the scanner captures and
2 interprets the information contained in the postal indicia.

1 4. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein the scanner is located in a control
2 chamber.

1 5. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the control chamber has a locked
2 door for isolating suspect mail.

1 6. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the interior of the receptacle
2 comprises:

3 an inner chamber that receives mail from the control chamber that is not
4 suspected of having life-harming material.

7. The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the inner chamber has a locked
door in which when open mail may be removed from the inner chamber.

8. The system claimed in claim 4, further including a slot for depositing mail into
the control chamber.

1 9. The system claimed in claim 8, further including: means for closing the slot
2 when the mail in the control chamber is suspected of containing life-harming
3 substances.

1 10. The system claimed in claim 8, further comprising means for indicating a
2 message indicating the status of the receptacle.

1 11. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data center correlates the
2 recipient address of the mail with unique information contained in card.

1 12. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacles includes the time
2 and date that the mail was deposited in the receptacle.

1 13. The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the receptacles include the
2 location of the receptacle.

1 14. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle unit includes:
2 means for informing the post of possibility of the presence of life-harming material in the
mail.

1 15. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the mailer's unit includes means
2 for automatically transmitting information to the data center at predetermined intervals.

1 16. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient's unit includes
2 means for automatically transmitting information to the data center at predetermined
3 intervals.

1 17. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique information on the card
2 is encrypted.